UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TRUSTEES OF THE DRYWALL TAPERS AND POINTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 1974 BENEFIT FUNDS, Plaintiffs, -against- HDC BUILDERS, INC., Defendant.	)	Index No.:17-CIV-3730 **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, Trustees of the Drywall Tapers and Pointers Local Union No. 1974 Benefit Funds (hereinafter referred to as the "Funds") or (collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs") by their attorneys Barnes, Iaccarino & Shepherd LLP allege as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action is based on the provisions of Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 (hereinafter referred to as the "Taft-Hartley Act") 29 U.S.C. Section 185, and on Section 502(a)(3) and Section 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "ERISA") (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(a)(3) and 29 U.S.C. 1145).

2. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and Sections 502(e)(1) and 502(f) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1132(e)(1) and 1132(f)); and derivative jurisdiction is contained in 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331 and 1337.

3. Venue properly lies in this District under the provisions of 502(e)(2) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(e)(2)) and Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(b).

4. This action is brought by the respective Trustees of the Funds in their fiduciary capacities for injunctive relief, monetary damages and other equitable relief under ERISA and for breach of a labor contract to secure performance by an Employer of specific statutory and contractual obligations to submit the required monetary contributions, dues check-off, and/or reports to the Plaintiffs and permit and cooperate in the conduct of an audit.

PARTIES

5. The Plaintiff Trustees are, at all relevant times, the fiduciaries of jointly administered multi-employer, labor management trust funds as defined by Section 3(21)(A) and Section 502(a)(3) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(21)(A) and 1132(a)(3). The Funds are established and maintained by the Drywall Tapers and Pointers of Greater New York Local Union 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Union) and various Employers pursuant to the terms of the Trade Agreements and Trust Indentures in accordance with Section 302(c)(5)(1) of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 186 (c)(5)). The Funds are employee benefit plans within the meaning of Sections 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 1132(d)(1), and multi-employer plans within the meaning of Sections 3(37) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(37) and 1145). Plaintiffs are Trustees of the Funds and the "plan sponsor" within the meaning of Section (3)(16)(B)(iii) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1002(16)(B)(iii)).

6. The Funds provide fringe benefits to eligible employees, retirees and their dependents on whose behalf the Employer is required to contribute to the Funds pursuant to its Trade Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement.") between the Employer and the Union. The Funds are authorized to collect contributions on behalf of employees from the Employers, and the Plaintiff Trustees as fiduciaries of the Funds are authorized to maintain suit as independent legal entities under Section 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(d)(1)) and are obligated to bring actions to enforce the provisions of the Trade Agreement and Trust Indentures that concern the protection of employee benefit rights.

7. The Fund's principal office is located and administered at 45 West 14th Street, New York, New York 10011, in the County of New York.

8. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, HDC Builders, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") at all relevant times, was and is an "employer" within the meaning of Sections 3(5) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(5) and 1145) and was and still is an employer in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185).

9. Upon information and belief, the Employer is a for-profit domestic corporation duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York with its principal place of business at 111 North Main Street, Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013 in the County of Northampton.

CAUSES FOR RELIEF
AS AND FOR A FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

10. The Employer executed an Agreement with the Union and/or was and still is a party to an Agreement with the Union by virtue of membership in an Employer Association.

11. The Agreement and/or Trust Indenture and/or the Policy for Collection of Delinquent Contributions adopted by the Plaintiff Funds (hereinafter referred to as the "Policy") requires the Employer to submit contribution reports setting forth the hours that each of its employees worked and the amount of contributions due pursuant to the rate schedules set forth in the Agreement for all work performed by its employees covered by the Agreement and to remit such monetary contributions in accordance with the Agreement and the rules and regulations established in the Trust Indenture.

12. Upon information and belief, as a result of work performed by the individual employees of the Employer pursuant to the Agreement, there may be due and owing to the Funds from the Employer, contribution reports, and fringe benefit contributions for the effective period of the Agreement.

13. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Employer is required to permit and cooperate with the Funds and/or their designated agents or representatives in an audit of the Employer's financial records for the

purpose of ascertaining whether the full amount of benefit contributions have been made to the Funds as required under the Agreement and to verify the accuracy of the Employer contribution reports.

14. The Employer has failed and refused to allow an audit by the Funds for the effective period of the Trade Agreement.

15. The Employer's failure, refusal or neglect to allow an audit constitutes a violation of the Agreement between the Employer and the Union wherein the Funds are third party beneficiaries as well as a violation of the Trust Indenture and Policy.

16. Pursuant to the Agreement and the Policy upon the Employer's failure to pay contributions as they become due, the Employer is obligated to the pay the following: the additional amount of 10% percent of the total sum of contributions due and unpaid as liquidated damages; interest calculated at the rate of 5.25% above prime per annum based upon the sum of all contributions due for the delinquent period; auditors' fees and attorneys' fees at the hourly rate charged to the Funds for such services and all costs incurred in initiating the court action for collection of delinquent contributions.

17. Accordingly, the Employer must permit and cooperate in the conduct of an audit by the Plaintiffs and is liable to Plaintiffs for benefit contributions found due and owing pursuant to an audit plus liquidated damages, interest, auditors' fees and attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by the audit.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

18. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "17" of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

19. In accordance with ERISA Section 209, 29 U.S.C. 1059 the Employer is responsible for maintaining the Books and records sufficient to allow the Funds to conduct an audit and its failure to do so constitutes a violation of ERISA.

20. Section 515 of ERISA, (29 U.S.C. Section 1145) requires employers to pay fringe benefit contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Trade Agreement and Trust Indentures.

21. An Employer who has failed to pay or timely pay the fringe benefit contributions and/or submit the contribution reports owed as a result of work performed by individual employees of the Employer constitutes a violation of Section 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1145).

22. Section 502 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132) provides that upon a finding of an employer violation of Section 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1145) which requires employers to pay fringe benefit contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of collective bargaining agreements, the Court shall award payment to a plaintiff Fund of the unpaid fringe benefit contributions, plus statutory damages and interest on the unpaid principal amount due both computed at a rate set forth in the United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Section 6621), together with reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and disbursements incurred in the action.

23. The failure to permit an audit has injured the Funds by delaying the investment of contributions that are found due pursuant to the audit and causing unnecessary administrative costs for the Funds and has injured the participants and beneficiaries and other contributing employers of the benefit plan in the form of lower benefits and higher contribution amounts.

24. Accordingly, the Employer is liable to Plaintiffs under the Agreement and any Trust Indenture and Policy concerning the payment of fringe benefit contributions and under Sections 209, 502 and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1059, 1132 and 1145) due to the failure to permit an audit and pay the contributions that are due and owing.

25. Accordingly, the Employer must permit and cooperate in the conduct of an audit and is liable to the Funds in an amount to be determined by the audit which shall include liquidated damages, interest and reasonable audit fees and attorneys' pursuant to Section 502 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray for Judgment against Defendant, HDC Builders, Inc. as follows:

On the First and Second Claims for Relief as follows:

(a) An Order requiring the defendant to permit and cooperate in an audit of the defendant's books and records by the plaintiff or its agents for the effective period of the Trade Agreement;

(b) For a Judgment against the defendant for any monies found due and owing as a result of the audit of defendant's books and records which shall include the principal amount due plus interest calculated at 5.25% percent over prime per month from the date of the delinquency, liquidated damages calculated at 10% of the principal amount found due and attorneys fees and the cost of the audit as provided for in the Trade Agreement and/or Trust Indenture and/or Policy for Collection of Delinquent Contributions;

(c) Retain Jurisdiction over this matter pending compliance with its Order;

(d) Court costs and disbursements as stated in Plaintiff's Policy For Collection of Delinquent Contributions and as mandated by Section 502(g)(D) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. Section 1132(g)(2)(D) and the Trade Agreement; and

(e) For such other and further relief as to the Court deems appropriate.

Dated: Elmsford, New York
May 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES, IACCARINO & SHEPHERD LLP

Lauren M. Kugielska, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiffs
258 Saw Mill River Road
Elmsford, New York 10523
(914) 592-1515